

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1           1. A tablecloth convertible to a garbage bag, comprising:
  - 2           a flexible panel having an expandable peripheral edge, said
  - 3           panel being bunched along its peripheral edge and having an
  - 4           elastic band attached to and surrounding said peripheral edge to
  - 5           form said expandable edge, said elastic band being of such
  - 6           length that said flexible panel forms a tablecloth, said elastic
  - 7           band being expandable such that said flexible panel is
  - 8           stretchable over a table top, said flexible panel closing over
  - 9           said table top upon said elastic band returning to its retracted
  - 10          position; and
  - 11          at least two spaced handles attached to said flexible panel
  - 12          proximate said expandable edge;
  - 13          whereby, upon said tablecloth having trash and garbage
  - 14          remaining from a meal thereon, said flexible panel converts to a
  - 15          garbage bag by stretching its expandable over said table to and
  - 16          enclosing said trash and garbage, said garbage bag being carried
  - 17          by said handles to a place for disposal.

1        2.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 1, wherein said  
2 flexible panel is circular in shape.

1        3.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 2, wherein there  
2 are two handles located at opposed positions on said flexible  
3 panel and said handles are attached to said expandable edge.

1        4.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 3, wherein said  
2 flexible panel is two-ply polymeric sheet.

1        5.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 4, said polymeric  
2 sheet being polyvinyl or polyester sheet.

1        6.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 5, each said handle  
2 comprising a polymeric strip having attachment end portions and  
3 a grasping portion, said attachment end portions being attached  
4 to said expandable edge.

1        7.    The convertible tablecloth of claim 6, wherein said  
2 attachment end portion of said polymeric strip is attached to  
3 said expandable edge by heat welding.